

**ROCKLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING,  
MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2010, 6:30 PM  
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

The School Committee met on Monday, June 14, 2010, at 6:30 PM, in the High School Library. Committee members present were: Mr. Norris, Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mills, Mr. Mullen, and Mrs. Werkheiser. Also present were Superintendent Retchless, Assistant Superintendent Scarpelli, and Mrs. Cusick.

Mrs. McGrath, Esten School Principal; Mrs. Sheehan, Memorial Park Principal; Mr. Stanish, Middle School Principal; Ms. Bohn, Middle School Assistant Principal; Ms. Salem, Pupil Personnel Director; Mr. Sangster, High School Principal; and members of the Esten/Memorial Park PACs and School Councils were present in the audience.

Representing the press were citizens broadcasting for WRPS/TV.

On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, the minutes of the meeting of May 24, 2010 were accepted. Mr. Mullen abstained.

The minutes of South Shore Regional School District Committee Meeting for April 21, 2010 were noted.

A request from USJB/CFLI to post flyers at the elementary and middle schools was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

A request from Rockland Lacrosse to distribute flyers at the elementary and middle schools was approved on the recommendation of the Superintendent. Motion by Mr. Mills seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

Superintendent Retchless noted that the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education notified the district that because of the special education students MCAS results, the District's Special Education Program went from a rating of Level 3 to a Level 1.

On three separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the following May Monthly Reports were approved:

- |                   |                                                                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) Administrators | Mr. Sangster, Mr. Stanish, Mrs. McGrath,<br>Mr. Kohn/Dr. Levine, Mrs. Sheehan, |
| 2) Guidance       | Mrs. Shaw                                                                      |
| 3) Nurse          | Mrs. Ryan                                                                      |

On five separate motions by Mr. Mills, seconds by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the following Security Trailer Reports for May were accepted:

- 1) Almshouse
- 2) Esten
- 3) Hartsuff Park
- 4) Jefferson
- 5) Memorial Park

The following Newsletters for June were noted:

- 1) Esten
- 2) Jefferson
- 3) Memorial Park
- 4) Middle School

The Building Rentals for May were noted.

Mrs. Werkheiser stated that the architects have been meeting with the Fire Department and Building Inspector. The issue of temporary parking and material color selections was also discussed.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to approve the 2010-2011 EASE/LEAP/STEPS Parent Handbook with the suggested dress code added. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous.

There was a general discussion with regard to the changes in school start times for the 2010-2011 School Year. The Superintendent noted that 60% of parents who responded to the ConnectEd call were in favor of the change. The schedule will now have the Middle School and the High School on the same time frame and all of the elementary schools on the same time frame. The subject of the benefit for Middle and High School students starting later was discussed. There was also a general discussion about an overall examination of the bus routes.

Chairman Norris reviewed the Superintendent's evaluation which included progress on goals. The goals included: MCAS and AYP, Curriculum revision, budget management and preparation, building project, negotiations, community involvement, and staff morale. Mr. Norris noted that Mr. Retchless achieved in the majority of categories a rating of exceeded expectations with a rating of fully met expectations in all of the others. The Chairman reviewed the comments of the Committee in the categories of: interpersonal, informational, decisional and personal characteristics. The Committee agreed that Superintendent Retchless has done an exceptional job.

After a brief discussion, it was voted to accept a \$10,000 donation from EMD Serono, Inc. to be used in the elementary school science department and to send the company a thank you letter. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

Mrs. McGrath, Esten School Principal, introduced Mrs. Flaherty and Mrs. Taylor, members of the Esten School PAC. Mrs. Flaherty reviewed the activities of the PAC for the year including fundraisers, enrichment programs, curriculum enrichment, and field trips. Mrs. McGrath reviewed the progress of the goals for the School Council for the 2009-2010 School Year which included: curriculum development, assessment, and enrichment, technology and classroom improvements, and ensuring a safe and healthy environment for students and staff. The proposed goals for the 2010-2011 School Year include: continuation of curriculum development, assessment, and enrichment, technology, and ensuring a safe and healthy environment for students and staff. On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the School Improvement Plan for 2010-2011 was approved.

Mrs. McGrath reported on the Fred Brown donation of \$5,800 which was used to buy DVDs, document cameras, and CD projectors and carts. Mrs. McGrath thanked Mr. Brown for his continued interest and support of the students at Esten School.

Mrs. Sheehan, Memorial Park School Principal, introduced Mrs. Makarski, and Mrs. Driscoll, members of the Memorial Park School PAC. Mrs. Makarski reviewed the activities of the PAC for the year including fundraisers, cultural events, family nights, and Field Day. Mrs. Sheehan reviewed the progress of the goals for the School Council for the 2009-2010 School Year which included: improving student writing skills, improving parent and community involvement in student learning, improving student math skills and strategies, utilizing available technology in the classroom and computer lab, and developing life-long readers. The goals for the 2010-2011 School Year include: improving communication, enhancing student engagement, and providing professional learning opportunities for student and staff. On the motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, it was voted to approve the School Improvement Plan for 2010-2011 was approved.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to table the 2010-2011 Day Care Handbooks for Staff Policies and Procedures and Parents. Motion by Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent, it was voted to table the 2010-2011 Elementary Handbook. Changes include new arrival and dismissal times, cafeteria charging policy, bullying policy change, and cell phone policy. It was suggested that the policy that is in place at Memorial Park of sending notices home only on Thursdays be adopted by all schools. Motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous.

Mr. Scarpelli read the names into the public record of the following students who received their Rockland Public Schools Adult High School Diplomas: Melquezedeqe B. Silva, Austin McCloud, Dwayne Gibbons, Tyler Beaudry, Danielle Marie Gramazio, Matthew Rae Looney, Heidi C. Hathaway, and Julian Larkin. It was noted that this is the 30<sup>th</sup> graduation to be held with 8 graduates. There is also a Transition Course being offered by Massasoit College for our graduates.

On the motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous, the miscellaneous listing of High School Library books was declared as surplus.

On the motion by Mrs. Pezzella, seconded by Mr. Mills, unanimous, the miscellaneous listing of Middle School Library books was declared as surplus.

On the motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the reappointments of the following personnel were approved. (attached)

- A) Administrators
- B) Teachers on Professional Teacher Status
- C) Teachers Eligible for Reappointment
- D) Non-Union Support Staff
- E) Custodians/Maintenance
- F) School Nurses & School Physician
- G) Business Office Personnel & School Secretaries
- H) Aides
- I) Special Education Drivers
- J) Day Care Staff

The Committee wanted to extend best wishes to the graduating class of 2010 and wished them well. It was also announced that the Little League series was beginning.

The Chairman polled the Committee with regard to Executive Session for the purpose of collective bargaining not to reconvene back into open session. The vote included Mr. Norris, Mr. Mills, Mrs. Pezzella, Mr. Mullen, and Mrs. Werkheiser, all in favor. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.  
Secretary

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mr. Mullen, unanimous, the meeting started in the Superintendent's office at 8:40 PM. Superintendent Retchless was invited to attend.

The Superintendent presented the proposed changes to the teacher's contract. The Superintendent presented proposed non-union salaries.

On motion of Mr. Mills, seconded by Mrs. Pezzella, unanimous, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas F. Mills, Jr.  
Secretary